

CABINET MEMBER FOR MUNICIPAL ASSETS – COUNCILLOR FRED JACKSON

Asset Management/ Council owned Properties

Following their recent success in securing a regional 'British Council for Offices' (BCO) award, the new Council offices at Number One Bickerstaffe Square have been shortlisted for the prestigious National BCO Award of 'Corporate Workplace of the Year'. The panel will review the submissions and the winner will be announced at an Awards Ceremony in the autumn.

Sea Water Quality

The 2015 bathing water season has commenced, this year sees the implementation of the revised bathing water standards, which means the final results will be based on the last four season's samples, previously results were based on the annual season. In addition, the standards for quality have now raised.

The final results this year's season will be published in November 2015.

In the meantime, Blackpool has received seaside awards for all four bathing waters. In order to achieve the seaside awards, our bathing waters passed the bathing water directive standards last year and have proved that Blackpool has met all the requirements commensurate with such an award in respect of its beach amenities.

Bathing water results are published by the Environment Agency on their website.

Flood and Water Management Statutory Services

Blackpool Council continues to work in partnership as recommended by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC). The Fylde Peninsula Water Management Partnership has a reputation for excellence in the North West as recognised by the Chair of the RFCC at the recent Environment Agency Annual Coastal Practitioners conference held in Blackpool.

Coastal Defence Schemes

Blackpool continues to work in partnership with the Fylde Peninsula Partnership and Turning Tides Partnership to deliver best practice. The emphasis this season will be to continue with campaigns and growing awareness and Blackpool will continue with its role to promote awareness and best practice with the Business Community.

Building Cleaning Services

The Building Cleaning service is working in partnership with the 'Chance 2 shine' programme giving an opportunity to four people to gain work experience in Building Cleaning. The students work within the service, along with permanent staff for up to sixteen hours per week over a maximum of three days per week, helping them to gain and or update existing skills. Previous candidates now work for the service in a full time position with others gaining employment with external agencies.

Street Lighting PFI

The Blackpool Street Lighting and Traffic Signals PFI has now entered its sixth year. The core investment was successfully completed in December 2014/ January 2015. Work now continues to maintain the lighting and traffic signals. Studies and monitoring have been undertaken at a number of sites to ensure traffic movement is the best that it can be and this will continue throughout the project.

Sea wall and Promenade maintenance.

The Anchorsholme sea defence project is progressing well with completion scheduled to be March 2016. This allows the much-needed co-ordination with United Utilities works that is being carried out.

There has been a great deal of interest by the public in the project and communication and consultation continues regularly with local residents. The contractor also has a visitor centre open at the site at Anchorsholme. The next round of public consultation will enable local people to play a part in the decision making process in relation to parking within the area.

Blackpool Council is also providing project management services for Wyre Council on the Rossall Project and are currently preparing a £17m bid for Fylde Council for their sea defences. Blackpool now has an exceptional reputation for delivering projects and is recognised nationally.

The Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest group hosted its Annual General Meeting in Blackpool from the 30 June to the 2 July, Members of that group visited the Anchorsholme seawall site, many of the Members and their officers have expressed a specific interest as they have recognised they learn from the Blackpool projects.